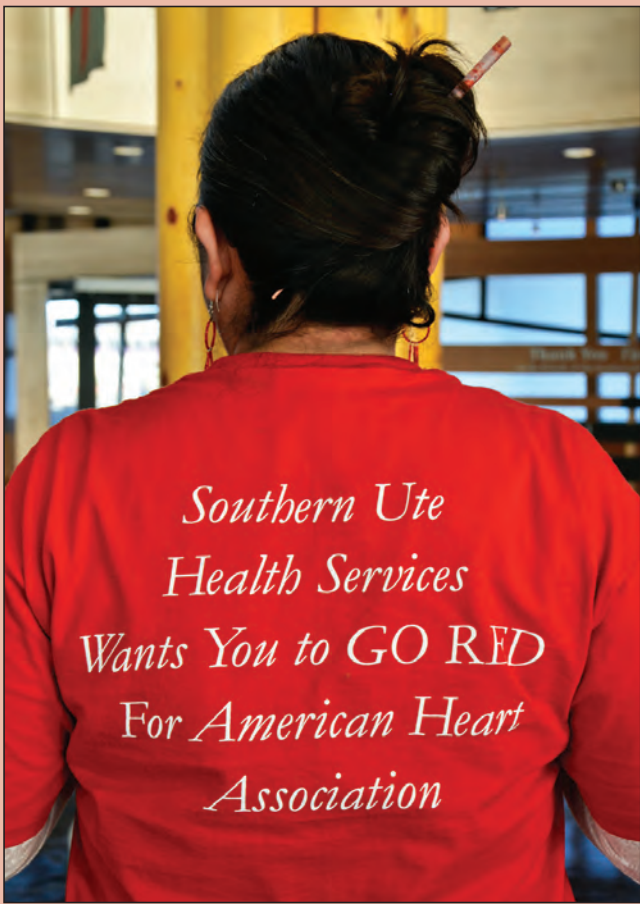




Health Services ‘goes red’



February was American Heart Month, and Southern Ute Health Services not only encouraged its personnel to wear red on Fridays — they also organized a group photo with Miss Southern Ute Brianna GoodTracks-Alires at the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum (top) on Friday, Feb. 24. Health Service Manager Mirielle Begay (left) shows off a shirt supporting Heart Month awareness.

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Mountain lion falls to highway traffic

By Ace Stryker
The Southern Ute Drum

The Southern Ute Tribal Rangers recovered a freshly killed adult male mountain lion on U.S. Highway 550 just north of the Colorado-New Mexico state line on Thursday, Feb. 23. The animal was apparently the victim of a fatal encounter with highway traffic. Southern Ute Dispatch received a call from a local oil and gas company employee who spotted the body at about 7 a.m., said Capt. Gus Velasquez. When a ranger arrived on the scene near mile marker 1, there were about eight cars along the side of the road, Velasquez said. “People were getting curious as to why everyone else was stopping,” he said. Typically when the Tribal Rangers recover the body of an uncommon animal, they turn it over to the tribe’s Wildlife Resource Management Division. Within a few hours, the division had found an interested tribal member to take the carcass, said Wildlife Biologist Aran Johnson. “If an animal is hit and its within tribal jurisdiction, we like to get it back, because there are tribal members that will utilize certain parts of it,” he said, including the hide, skull, claws and teeth. Johnson said the animal appeared to be between four and six years old and in “great shape.” “It’s a nice cat; an unfortunate demise,” he said. “Really unfortunate for him to go down like that. Really a prime animal.”



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

Wildlife Biologist Aran Johnson of the tribe’s Wildlife Resource Management Division studies a freshly killed mountain lion on Thursday, Feb. 23. Using scientific methods, Johnson determined the animal was between four and six years old.

Though many drivers on Southern Ute Indian Reservation roads have had close encounters with deer at some point, it’s relatively rare to hear about a mountain lion, Johnson said. He could recall “only a handful” of traffic encounters in the last decade, he said.

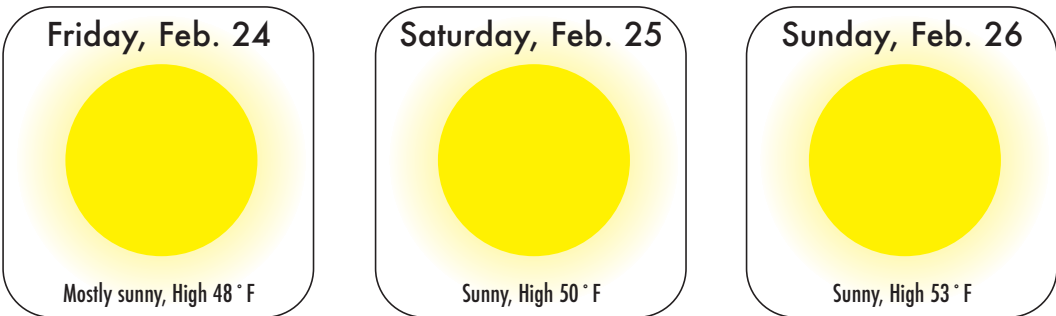
According to a three-year study began in 1999 by Joe Koloski, a graduate student who later became the tribe’s wildlife biologist, the reservation supports approximately 55 mountain lions at any given time. Koloski’s research led to the approval of a mountain lion management plan and the reopening of a mountain lion hunting season to tribal members, which had been closed in the ‘90s due to lack of knowledge. Current quotas allow for the harvesting of four female or seven mountain lions total. Johnson said there have been several mountain lion sightings near town over the past two years. He urged anyone who sees one to call dispatch immediately at 970-563-4401. “The last couple of springs — it seems like it’s right around April — we’ve had a visit by a mountain lion that part of its territory is the Pine River,” he said. “We take that real seriously.”



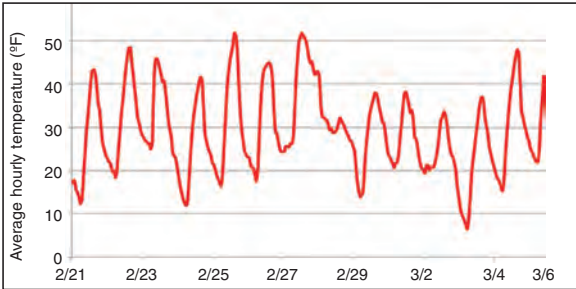
photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

An adult male mountain lion killed in traffic on Thursday, Feb. 23 was a “prime animal,” according to Wildlife Biologist Aran Johnson of the tribe’s Wildlife Resource Management Division.

Local Ignacio Weather

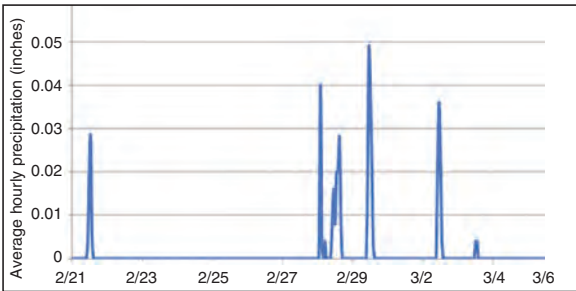


Weather data for February 21 – March 6



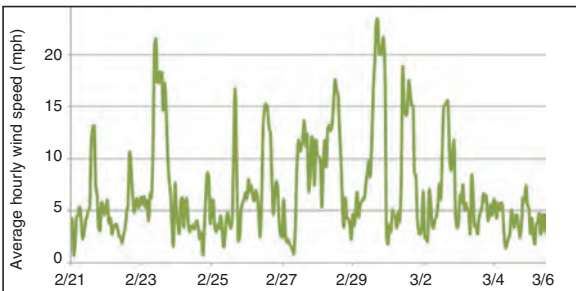
Temperature

High	51.7°F
Low	6.5°F
Average	29.3°F
Average last year	32.9°F



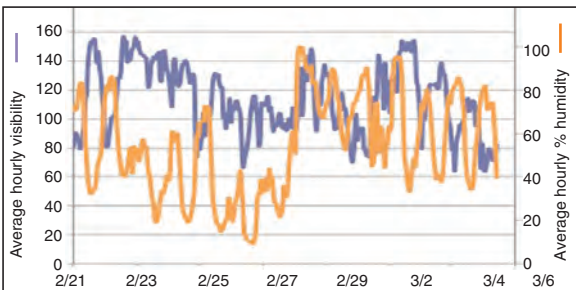
Precipitation

Total	0.43 inches
Total last year	0.02 inches



Wind speed

Average	7.0 mph
Minimum	0.8 mph
Maximum	23.4 mph



Visibility & humidity

Avg. visibility	113.2
Avg. humidity	54.7%

Air quality
Good



8TH ANNUAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

POWWOW



SKY UTE DOWNS

ALL VENDORS WELCOME
DOOS OPEN 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM GOURD DANCE
1:00 PM AND 7:00 PM GRAND ENTRY
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ROBERT HOWE (970) 563- 0100 ext. 2458